

Tunbridge Wells u3a

England & Wales · Charity number 1018835

Details

Other names	TUNBRIDGE WELLS UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, T W U 3 A
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1993-03-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	2 Silver Birches 31 Brian Crescent Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0AN
Phone	07835300193
Email	secretarytwu3a@gmail.com
Website	https://tunbridgewells.u3asite.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE EDUCATION OF OLDER PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED FROM FULL TIME WORK, BY ALL MEANS INCLUDING ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Activities: Tunbridge Wells U3A is a recreational and educational organisation set up with the aim of benefiting those in the community who are retired or no longer in full-time gainful employment. It provides a meeting each month with an invited speaker, a variety of social gatherings and has over sixty study groups with subjects from art appreciation to 10 mile walks. Around 150 attend the monthly meetings.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND LOCALITY
- East Sussex
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£67,666	£67,448	-	-
2024-03-31	£45,767	£42,143	-	-
2023-03-31	£44,978	£41,482	-	-
2022-03-31	£41,983	£38,720	-	-
2021-03-31	£23,519	£19,239	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bridget Sands		2020-03-25
CHRISTOPHER JOHN WOODWARD		2023-06-15
Fiona Findlay		2020-06-18
Judith Horwood		2021-07-01
Lindsay Hasell		2020-04-20
Michael Duckett		2024-06-20
Nesta Ethel Sian Shaw		2023-06-15
Philippa Bernstein		2022-06-16
Sandra Ann McDonald		2025-06-19

Tunbridge Wells u3a

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS u3a

Charity No: 1018835

**Annual Report
&
Financial Statements
For the year ending
31st March 2025**

www.tunbridgewells.u3asite.uk



Chairman's AGM Report

We can look back at the past year as one of success, with the continued smooth operation of our established programmes of activities and events, and achievement insofar as planned key 'projects' are concerned.

We implemented a new website around the beginning of calendar year 2025, thanks largely to the work of Ian Graham, assisted by Nola Marshall. Our website is now based on the more modern 'platform', called SiteWorks, which most u3as around the UK are using. And thanks largely to the efforts of our Treasurer Mike Duckett, we have established a charity account with Microsoft, so that all committee members have access to the Office software package at no personal cost. We are starting to use a proper email service for our u3a that is allowing role-based email addresses to be set up using our domain name (twu3a.org.uk).

In February we again recognised the work of our many volunteers, you could say the core of our u3a, with a lunch at the TW Masonic Hall; about 100 attended, and they were very informatively and lively addressed by Chris Murphy of the TW Repair Shop. The lunch, delivered by the catering team at the Masonic Hall, kept to the high standards we have come to expect of them, and many judged the event to be a great success.

Within our u3a 'fold', 'shepherded' in by our Membership Secretary Judy Horwood, are over 1,100 members. Of these, about 150 members volunteer in various ways across our u3a, including those who organise group events, as well as membership-wide ones, and the behind-the-scenes teams for audio-visual facilities, publicity and promotion, gazebo operations, refreshments, greeting and meeting, Beacon membership records, website support, and flower embellishments. We are grateful for all they do.

We are thankful to our Newsletter Editor Bridget Sands, for continuing to keep us aware of planned and completed events, such as the short breaks (organised by Sandra McDonald and her team), day trips (organised by Joan Young and her team), as well as other membership-wide events (organised by Philippa Bernstein and her team) during the year. We are grateful for all those who participate in planning and bringing these events to fruition.

Philippa has offered to continue to serve as our Events Coordinator, while Joan steps down from the committee this month having excellently served for six years, while kindly offering to continue to organise day trips outside of the Committee.

Our second monthly coffee morning hosted at the Old Auction House has added to the success of our more well-known monthly coffee morning at the Trinity.

Of course, much of what goes on in our u3a, is undertaken by our interest groups, led by enthusiasts for whom we are most grateful, which cater (in some cases literally) for the interests of many of our members. Our Groups Coordinator Lindsay Hasell welcomes new ideas for adding groups to the existing portfolio.

My thanks go to our Secretary Sian Shaw, who makes sure we have an effective calendar and locations agreed for our key events, and the Deputy Chairman Fiona Findlay, for her counsel and stepping in when I couldn't be present.

Above all, I am always pleased to get together with members as colleagues and friends for lively chats and banter; I particularly thank members who keep an eye on the isolated. May we continue to so work together for the mutual benefit of members in the year that lies ahead.

Chris Woodward



Treasurers Report 2024 – 2025

As of March 31st, membership was 1,106 and is now at pre-pandemic levels. The higher membership together with a very active groups and outings programme resulted in increased income of £21,490.

Total income was £67,666 compared with £46,176 in the prior year.

Subscription, gift aid and donation income at £20,776 was £1,316 up on the previous year.

Total expenditure was £67,448 compared with £42,327 in the previous year, resulting in an overall surplus of £218.

Third Age Trust affiliation costs at £7,690 increased by £1,117 compared with the previous year and will increase further this year to £8,342. The increases, although related to membership numbers, were also caused by a correction in the number of members receiving the Third Age Trust magazine.

£1,964 was spent and expensed on capital items in the year to help with publicity, improve efficiency and reduce future costs particularly printing.

The introduction of online joining has been a great success with over 50% of all new members joining online and has reduced workload and cost.

As of 31st March, total funds were £41,903, £5,959 of which is ring fenced for groups and future events.

The Executive Committee recommends that the subscription income for the membership year commencing September 2025 remains at £16.00 per annum.

A Financial Policy detailing responsibilities and procedures has been written and approved by the Executive Committee.

M R Duckett
Treasurer
Tunbridge Wells u3a

Tunbridge Wells u3a					
Statement of All Accounts					
			2024/25		2023/24
Income					
	Membership		17,796		16,804
	Gift Aid		2,729		2,627
	Donations		251		29
	Educational Visits		15,209		9,849
	Groups		20,937		9,794
	Events		9,487		6,386
	Interest		865		677
	Other		392		10
	Total Income		67,666		46,176
Expenditure					
	Third Age Trust		7,690		6,573
	Central Expenses		8,457		4,557
	Bank Charges		486		483
	Monthly Meetings		2,524		2,589
	Educational Visits		16,108		10,056
	Groups		19,795		9,779
	Event Expenses		11,996		8,290
	Other		392		
	Total Expenditure		67,448		42,327
	Surplus		218		3,849
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025					
	Previous Year Carry Forward		41,685		37,836
	Surplus		218		3,849
	Year End Balance		41,903		41,685
	Represented By				
	CAF Bank		7,129		5,062
	Savings		34,774		36,423
	PayPal				200
	Total Funds		41,903		41,685

Independent Examiners Report

I have reviewed the accounts of the TWu3a and am satisfied they are compatible with the requirements of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my attention which would indicate they do not comply with the requirements of the Act.

Independent Examiner: James Shah, Meekins Shah Accountancy Ltd

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular loop followed by several horizontal and diagonal strokes extending to the right.

Date 13 MAY 2025.

Tunbridge Wells u3a

England & Wales - Charity number 1018835

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Charity No: 1018835

**Annual Report
&
Financial Statements
For the year ending
31st March 2024**

<http://www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org/>

The year 2023/24 has been one of transition. Apart from my becoming chairman after the expertly executed terms of previous chairmen, particularly Eryll Fabian and Sue Brimlow, we have also transitioned to the regular use of the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship (CWCF) Hall; although a few were concerned, most of us have found the CWCF Hall to have improved facilities as well as better ambience. (Hall hiring is one of the responsibilities of our busy Secretary, Sian Shaw.)

We have also seen transition from Rob Slater to Craig Forster, who joined just before he took up the baton for arranging our monthly talks; we are grateful for their service. And, then thrust upon us through the unexpected and untimely passing of David Brimlow, Treasurer and friend of many, we are about to transition to a new Treasurer, with the timely interim support of past Treasurer, David Scott.

Transitions lie ahead; an anticipated important one being the implementation of a new website based on the National u3a's delivery of a new and more modern 'platform', called SiteWorks. The timing of this is not certain, as we are in the hands of the national team, but we have a core team in place to help ready ourselves; we hope to see our new website in place before the end of the 2024/25 year. Along with this we are hoping to implement a proper email service for our u3a that will allow role-based email addresses to be set up using our domain name (tunbridgewellsu3a.gov). And then we can move to get our data assets properly managed in a shared 'cloud' database.

In March we recognised the work of our many volunteers with a lunch at the TW Masonic Hall; about 100 attended. The lunch, delivered by the catering team at the Masonic Hall, was very tasty and a great success. Within our u3a 'fold', 'shepherded' in by our Membership Secretary Judy Horwood, are nearly 1,100 members. Of these, about 150 volunteer in various ways across our u3a, including those who organise group events, as well as membership-wide ones, and the behind-the-scenes teams for audio-visual facilities, publicity and promotion, gazebo operations, refreshments, greeting and meeting, Beacon membership records, website support. We are grateful for all they do.

We are thankful to our Newsletter Editor Bridget Sands, for keeping us aware of planned and completed events, such as our short breaks to Luxembourg in October 2023 and the Peak District in May 2024 (organised by Sandra McDonald and her team), day trips (organised by Joan Young and her team), as well as other membership-wide events (organised by Philippa Bernstein and her team) during the year. We are grateful for all those who participate in planning and bringing these events to fruition.

Our second monthly coffee morning hosted at the Old Auction House has added to

the success of our more well-known monthly coffee morning at the Trinity.

Of course, the core of our u3a, remains the 100+ groups, led by enthusiasts for whom we are most grateful, which cater (in some cases literally) for the interests of many of our members. Our Groups Coordinator Lindsay Hasell welcomes new ideas for adding groups to the existing portfolio.

My thanks must also go to the Deputy Chairman Fiona Findlay, for stepping in when I couldn't be present.

Above all, it's good to get together with members as colleagues and friends for lively chats and banter; I particularly thank members who keep an eye on the isolated. While sometimes things may not run as smoothly as we'd like, may we continue be positive in all we do and so overcome the challenges. May we continue to so work together for the mutual benefit of members in the year that lies ahead.

Kind regards

Chris Woodward

INTERIM TREASURERS REPORT 2023 – 2024

It is with sadness that it falls to me to present this Financial Report for 2023/24 following the sudden death of our previous Treasurer David Brimlow. David had been treasurer for five years since I retired from the position in May 2019. He has diligently carried out this task throughout that period, including through the COVID epidemic.

In March 2024 I assumed the role as Interim Treasurer, supported by my wife Jill Scott as Bookkeeper.

During David's tenure, the reserves of Tunbridge Wells u3a have increased from £24,000 (2019) to over £41,000 (as at 31st March 2024), growing by £3,624 over the past 12 months. This includes funds held on behalf of members of groups, outings, and events.

Overall, the income and expenses of the charity are marginally higher than the previous year. This largely reflect increased membership. There is a change in the relative amounts received and spent on the various member activities (Educational visits, Group activities and Events) organised by individual groups or on behalf of all members. However, the overall income and expenditure has remained stable. This may be due to timing of events and payments made.

As the Interim Treasurer, I have drawn some conclusions from the financial accounts prepared by David and completed by me over the last few weeks of this financial year.

Total Funds of the Charity

David was aware of the growth in the funds of our u3a and the need to manage these within the terms identified both by the National u3a and the Charity Commissions guidance. It will be up to the Management Committee as Trustees, guided by the new Treasurer to be elected at the AGM, to agree a policy for the future management of these funds and the best way they can be used to promote the objectives of the Tunbridge Wells u3a.

The Executive Committee recommends that the subscription for the membership year commencing September 2024 remains at £16 per annum.

Financial Controls

The National u3a, in line with guidance issued by the Charity Commission, have recommended that all u3as should have in place a written set of financial policies (and procedures). It will be the responsibility of the new Treasurer, with the support of the recently formed Finance Sub Committee, to formulate and recommend such a policy, and for the Executive Committee to approve it.

I wish to thank my wife, in her role as Bookkeeper, members of the Executive Committee and Sue Brimlow for their assistance during this difficult period. This enabled our normal Treasury functions to continue as we went through the necessary banking procedures and year-end reconciliations.

Finally, I wish the new Treasurer success in his important role as a Trustee of our Charity.

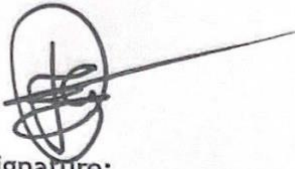
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David A. Scott
Interim Treasurer
Tunbridge Wells University of the Third Age

Independent Examiners Report

I have reviewed the accounts of the TWu3a and am satisfied they are compatible with the requirements of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my attention which would indicate they do not comply with the requirements of the Act.

Independent Examiner: James Shah, Meekins Shah Accountancy Ltd



Signature:

Date: 01/05/24

Tunbridge Wells u3a

England & Wales - Charity number 1018835

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Charity No: 1018835

**Annual Report
&
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For the year ending
31st March 2023
Draft**

<http://www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org/>

The last year has been a period of both consolidation and growth as we threw off the restraints of the pandemic. After a considerable drop in membership during lockdown, our numbers are continuing to grow steadily and in early April (just out of this reporting period) we shall top the 1000 mark once more. We have held two lively New Members' Meetings during the year in which new members learnt about the history and ethos of u3a and were able to chat to group contacts and committee members in an informal manner.

Our groups continue to be the core of our activity, and many have been created during the year, though some fail to get off the ground because of the reluctance of members to act as group contacts. Groups come in all forms and sizes and have different aims. Our Quiz Group collects their prize money and, this year, celebrated having donated £5000 to charity! As a new departure, our Groups Coordinator arranged two working breakfasts for group contacts where common problems and possible solutions could be discussed.

Our Outings Team arranged a varied and very popular programme of outings during the year as did the Events Team. The Barn Dance, for example, which had had to be postponed for 2 years because of Covid, finally took place in October. Sandra McDonald, our Vice Chair and Short Breaks and Holidays organiser, arranged two short breaks, one to Devon and one to the Midlands, which were, as always, very popular. She is stepping down this year after six years in which she has been a tireless and forceful member of the committee. Thanks are due to her from us all but I would like to add my personal thanks especially for her help and support during the last year when she has been our Vice Chair. Members will be delighted to hear that she has kindly agreed to continue to organise short breaks, trips to South Wales and Luxembourg in 23/4 already being fully booked and plans afoot for 24/5.

Bob Slater, our Talks Organiser, will also be handing over at the end of 2023 after six years in the role. He has continued to provide us with a varied and interesting programme of talks at monthly meetings which have been very much appreciated. Christiane Higgins has volunteered to take over the role. We wish her well and hope that she will have a less stressful time than Bob who not only had to produce two speakers each month while we held the meetings on Zoom during the pandemic, but also to contend with all the problems associated with the uncertainty of the Camden Centre roof once we returned to meeting face-to-face.

We had hoped to return permanently to the Camden Centre for our monthly meetings in January. Storage space is available there which makes setting up the meetings, which continue as hybrid meetings with some members joining in on Zoom, much easier for our AV team, and also allows us to have a book and jigsaw exchange as well as to display group and other information. Unfortunately, after only two months, the ongoing repairs made it impossible for the Camden Centre to house us and we returned to the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship in March. We are most grateful to the latter who allow us to use their Hall at short notice. Special thanks are also due to the AV Team, the T Team (as the tea team is now known), and the Jigsaw and Book Exchange organisers who cheerfully and without fuss adjust their arrangements for whichever venue we are at.

As well as the programme of monthly talks, we have hosted two exceptional talks this year. The first, "Over Berlin at Night in a Mosquito Bomber" was given by Colin Bell then aged 102, though no one would have guessed it. The second was the idea of Sandra Blacker, the Science and Technology group contact who invited Greg

Clark, our MP who is chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology, to speak to us. Both talks were fascinating. Both were reported in the local press.

The success of our display at the Queen's Jubilee, encouraged us to buy a gazebo which we have taken to local fetes and erected under the Millenium Clock on u3a Day to help raise the profile of u3a. It was hard work but the Gazebo Volunteers thoroughly enjoyed meeting the public and are looking forward to being out with the gazebo again this summer. The display undoubtedly helped our recruitment drive, as did the help of two local journalists who have been actively supporting TWu3a in the press. We need to extend our publicity and this I am hoping to undertake with the support of the committee when I stand down.

Behind the scenes, the committee has been active and this year we adopted an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy which can be found on the Small Print section of our website together with our Constitution and other policies. We are indebted to Sandra MacDonald and Anne Goldstein for all the hard work which they put into compiling the policy and who will be continuing to monitor its implementation.

TWu3a is an active member of the u3a Kent Network which enables u3as throughout Kent to discuss common problems and concerns and to share information such as details of the SE Forum Summer School, which several of our members attended last summer. This year several of our committee members have also taken advantage of the new peer-to-peer groups between committee members in different u3as which the Network has set up.

This will be my last report to the AGM as I, too, am stepping down after six years on the committee. I took over as Chairman three years ago just as the pandemic had started which certainly provided a lot of challenges. I think I shall be remembered as the Chairman who was forever asking for volunteers. We always need more, but it is with the help of those of you who volunteer that we have come through Covid and settled once more into a normal rhythm and I cannot thank you all enough for your help and support. I have mentioned a few by name above but there are so many – members of the Committee itself, the Group Contacts, Talks Organiser, AV Team, T-Team, Events Team, Group Organisers, Gazebo Volunteers, Jigsaw and Book Exchange organisers, the EDI specialits, Beacon Administrators, the Webmaster and her helper. If I have omitted anyone, it is not intentional but merely that there are so many people who, quietly and unobtrusively, make things in TWu3a work ... a true example of our motto: *by the members, for the members*.

I have enjoyed my time as Chairman very much, with all its ups and downs, but now is time to hand over. I wish the new team every success and look forward to seeing TWu3a grow in new and exciting directions.

Eryll Fabian

May 2023



TREASURERS REPORT 2022 – 2023

The year was characterised by a full return to normal activity, with a busy programme of Meetings, Outings, Group visits and centrally organised Events.

As at 31st March 2023 we have TOTAL FUNDS of £37,835.

TOTAL INCOME was £44,978 compared with £41,983 in the previous year.

Subscriptions and related Gift Aid were up slightly year on year, with membership now once again around the 1,000 level.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE was £41,842 compared with £38,720 in the previous year.

Our affiliation costs to the Third Age Trust were up slightly compared to the previous 12 months due to an increase in the per capita charge. In general central charges from U3A Head Office have been held to a tight budget.

Our own Administration Costs have been reduced following a reduction in our printing costs following a review of the need for printed Newsletters and related reduction in postage costs. We also had a big push on automated payments last summer in the subscription renewal process and now more than half the members are paying by Direct Debit. The consequent reduction in cheques is a significant saving as the Bank is charging 60p to clear each cheque. Where possible I would ask members to pay for outings and events as well via online banking to keep these costs down.

We are also now benefitting from the improving interest rate environment and have transferred our savings from Virgin to an account with CAF Bank. This makes it easy to move money between our accounts and maximise our interest earning potential.

Our overall surplus for the year is £3,136.

The income and expenditure figures and the balance sheet are as follows:

Tunbridge Wells u3a			
Statement of Accounts - Income and Expenditure			
All figures in £			
	2022/2023		2021/2022
INCOME			
Subscriptions	16,124		15,722
Gift Aid	2,507		2,334
Donations	263		155
Group Educational Visits	13,505		10,022
Group income other	7,674		4,682
Events income	4,803		9,016
Bank Interest	102		52
TOTAL	44,978		41,983
EXPENDITURE			
Affiliated Third Age Trust	6,634		6,175
Central Expenses	5,276		6,089
Bank Charges	528		554
Monthly Meetings	2,715		3,002
Group Educational Visits	12,100		8,526
Group Expenses Other	8,081		4,825
Event expenses	6,508		9,549
TOTAL	41,842		38,720
Surplus	3,136		3,263

Balance Sheet at 31st March	2023		2022
Carried forward from previous year	34,696		31,433
Surplus for the year	3,136		3,263
Year end Balance	37,832		34,696
Represented by:			
CAF Bank	6,873		23,826
PayPal	200		200
Savings	30,762		10,670
TOTAL	37,835		34,696

As the figures show we continue to build a small surplus each year and this will allow us to hold our annual subscription once again at the current level of £16 for the 2023/2024 subscription year. The high rate of inflation has had an impact on our costs for printing, postage, venue hire and travel but we will continue to make savings where we can.

David Brimlow, Treasurer
May 2023

Independent Examiners Report

I have reviewed the accounts of the TWU3A and am satisfied they are compatible with the requirements of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my attention which would indicate they do not comply with the requirements of the Act.

Independent Examiner: James Shah, Meekins Shah
Accountancy Ltd

Signature:



Date:

24/04/23.

Tunbridge Wells u3a

England & Wales - Charity number 1018835

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Charity No: 1018835

**Annual Report
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For the year ending
31st March 2022**

<http://www.tunbridgewellsu3a.org/>

Chairman's Report to the AGM on 16 June 2022

In many ways this has been a trying year for everyone. It started well, as Covid restrictions were beginning to be lifted at the time of the last AGM. Then came the Omicron variant, and restrictions began to feel very tedious. TWu3a has nevertheless had an active programme throughout the year, catering wherever possible both to those who were not yet confident enough to take part in large gatherings and to those who could not wait to get to get back to normal. Indeed, looking back, I am amazed at how much we have achieved.

For those who use Zoom, we provided two speakers each month until December, by which time the demand for the second talk, and for Zoom coffee mornings, had dwindled. Many of us continued to enjoy Caroline Piper's excellent virtual walks and talks until these, too, were discontinued at the end of 2021. We were, however, able to return to the Camden Centre in August for our normal monthly meetings. These were hybrid meetings, enabling members to attend either in person or on Zoom. The AV Team tackled the problems of this new technology with enthusiasm, and we shall continue to offer hybrid monthly meetings in the future to enable those members who cannot attend the Camden Centre to take part.

Setting up hybrid meetings was not without its challenges as, indeed, was the problem of premises. The roof of the Camden Centre Hall sprang a leak in heavy rain on the night before our second meeting and, once repaired, the Hall was taken over by the NHS as a vaccination centre. The Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship kindly allowed us to use their spacious Hall until we could return to the Camden Centre, for which we are very grateful. Many members would have liked to move there permanently but this proved impractical, though we are hoping to use the TWCF hall for one-off meetings in the future.

A highlight of the year has been the celebration of our 30th Anniversary. The inaugural meeting took place on 12th November 1991 and it would have been sad, indeed, if Covid had stopped us from celebrating. As it was, over 60 of us gathered for a magnificent tea at the Masonic Hall with stirring entertainment by the Rock Choir. The event was attended by the Mayor and was very much enjoyed by all.

In December, we produced a special anniversary edition of the Newsletter including articles by many of our earliest members and snippets from past editions which shows how much TWu3a has grown – and how some problems never change! As well as information about both past and forthcoming TWu3a activities, the Newsletters have included the thought-provoking quizzes by Colin and Jenny Brennan and the crossword sent to us each month by the Eastbourne Meads u3a Crossword Group. These will be phased out now, but we are most grateful to them for providing these excellent brain teasers during the pandemic.

A glance through the last 12 months' Newsletters, shows TWu3a in full swing as we return to a more normal way of life. After so many long months of lockdown followed by further restrictions, there has been an enormous enthusiasm for getting out and about. Monthly outings have continued with great success, and we have been able to reinstate trips that were cancelled due to the pandemic (Thursford Christmas Spectacular, trip to Devon), and arrange new ones (Potters, Birmingham Military Tattoo). The Events Team has put together a varied programme -- from bingo and line-dancing to another slap-up tea and much more -- which is proving very popular. Above all, our groups are returning to normal giving members an opportunity to socialise while pursuing their special interests. A few groups, sadly, did not survive the pandemic but new ones have been formed and more are on the way.

Membership has continued to rise, and we hope soon to be back to the pre-pandemic level.

In 2020/21 we were only able to host a New Members' Meeting on Zoom, so we were delighted this year to have face-to-face meetings in September and April as well as one on Zoom in February. They were well attended and several new members have started groups and volunteered in other capacities.

During the year we have made our website much more attractive with slide shows and more photographs. We now also have two Facebook pages, one for members only on which members can post any matter of interest, both u3a and non-u3a, and an open one for the public with information of upcoming events in TWu3a. The use of all three is gradually increasing and they are an aid to recruitment, as well as useful tools for members.

Membership was also encouraged when we were invited by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to take part in the picnic which they arranged in Calverley Gardens in September to thank volunteers from many different charities who had continued to provide services during the pandemic. We housed a display in a gazebo where the Mayor and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent as well as members of the public showed great interest in TWu3a. This was a useful way of raising awareness of u3a and of recruiting members to TWu3a and, following its success, we shall be mounting similar displays at the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations organised by the Borough Council on 3rd June, and at future public events.

As I predicted in my report to last year's AGM, TWu3a continues to grow from strength to strength and I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to produce all this activity. David Brimlow and Joan Young have kindly offered to stand for a further period of three years. Sandra McDonald has agreed to stand as Vice Chairman and Philippa Bernstein, who joined the Committee in the middle of the year, has agreed to stand as Events Co-ordinator – I am grateful to them all, as well as to the other members who remain in post. In addition, I should like to thank Adrian Twiner, who stood down earlier this year, for all that he has done for TWu3a over many years both on and off the Committee. Many thanks, too, to Marilyn Smart who has headed the Events Team for the last 10 years – I cannot remember a single Event that has not been a resounding success! Without members who volunteer, TWu3a would not exist, so – in alphabetical order – we all owe enormous thanks to the AV Team, the Events Team, all the Group Organisers, the Meeters and Greeters, the Talks Organiser, the Tea Ladies, the Webmaster and her Assistant, and to all of you who step up when the need arises and live up to our motto of

By the Members, For the Members.

The future of TWu3a looks good and with your help we shall make it even better.

Eryll Fabian

TREASURERS REPORT 2021 – 2022

The year was characterised by a gradual return to more normal activity, with the resumption of outings, Group visits and centrally organised events.

As at 31st March 2022 we have TOTAL FUNDS of £34,696.

TOTAL INCOME was £41,983 compared with just £23,467 in the previous year.

Subscriptions and related Gift Aid were virtually unchanged year on year. It was the change in income from Educational Visits, Group activities and Events which was most striking, with for example Educational Visits totalling £10,022 compared to just £40 the previous year.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE was £38,720 compared with £19,239 in the previous year.

Our affiliation costs to the Third Age Trust were around £1,000 less than in the previous 12 months due to the drop in membership during the pandemic. The increase in our central administration costs is largely the result of the purchase of new IT and speaker hardware for the AV team to enable hybrid meetings which means our monthly meetings can now be watched at home by members who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. For Educational Visits, Groups and Events the increase in expenses matched the related increase in income.

Our overall surplus for the year is **£3,263**.

Membership levels have now started to recover and we expect this to continue as confidence increases.

The income and expenditure figures and the balance sheet are as follows:

Tunbridge Wells u3a			
Statement of Accounts - Income and Expenditure			
All figures in £			
	2021/2022		2020/2021
INCOME			
Subscriptions	15,722		15,085
Gift Aid	2,334		2,793
Donations	155		192
Group Educational Visits	10,022		40
Group income other	4,682		543
Events income	9,016		4,814
Bank Interest	52		-
TOTAL	41,983		23,467
EXPENDITURE			
Affiliated Third Age Trust	6,175		7,187
Central Expenses	6,089		4,985
Bank Charges	554		294
Monthly Meetings	3,002		1,597
Group Educational Visits	8,526		32
Group Expenses Other	4,825		835
Event expenses	9,549		4,309
TOTAL	38,720		19,239
Surplus	3,263		4,228
Balance Sheet at 31st March	2022		2021
Carried forward from previous year	31,433		27,205
Surplus for the year	3,263		4,228
Year end Balance	34,696		31,433
Represented by:			
CAF Bank	23,826		20,555
PayPal	200		260
Virgin Savings	10,670		10,618
TOTAL	34,696		31,433


As the figures show we continue to build a small surplus each year and this will allow us to hold our annual subscription once again at the current level of £16 for the coming subscription year. There will be increases in our affiliation costs to the Third Age Trust in 2022/2023 and the outlook on inflation will impact our costs for printing, postage, venue hire and travel to name a few but we will continue to make savings where we can.

David Brimlow, Treasurer, May 2022

Independent Examiners Report

I have reviewed the accounts of the TWU3A and am satisfied they are compatible with the requirements of section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. No matter has come to my attention which would indicate they do not comply with the requirements of the Act.

**Independent Examiner: James Shah, Meekins Shah
Accountancy Ltd**

Signature: 

Date: 11/05/2022
